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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Sixty-third plenary session
Geneva, 15-17 June 2015
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Opening addresses and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda

The plenary session will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 9:30 on Monday, 15 June 2015.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening addresses and adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the 2015 session of Economic Commission for Europe and the 46th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.
3. Response by official statistics to the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Modernisation of statistical production and services and managing for efficiency.
5. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference:
   (a) Guide to Measuring Global Production;
   (b) International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers;
   (c) Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses;
   (d) Statistical Framework for Measuring Quality of Employment.
6. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region:
   (a) Outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau;
   (b) Substantive discussion on labour mobility and globalisation.

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7. Programme of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistics subprogramme:

   (a) Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists;

   (b) Programme planning documents for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistics subprogramme Statistics.

8. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2016 CES plenary session.

9. Election of the Conference of European Statisticians Bureau.

10. Other business.

11. Closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations

The sixty-third plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians is convened at the request of the sixty-second CES plenary session (ECE/CES/85) and in accordance with the *Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau* adopted at the 2005 plenary session of the CES (CES/2005/2).

The plenary session includes a formal session and two seminars.

1. Opening addresses and adoption of the agenda

The proposed provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the CES Bureau at its 17-18 February 2015 meeting. The provisional agenda will be presented for the approval of the Conference.

2. Matters arising from the 2015 session of Economic Commission for Europe and the 46th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

The agenda item will focus on the implications of the decisions of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the work of the CES.

3. Response by official statistics to the Sustainable Development Goals

This part of the CES plenary session will be organised as a one-day seminar. The organisers are Switzerland, France and Sweden. Switzerland will chair the seminar.

The process of establishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is well underway. The goals and targets are planned to be adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015. The UN Statistical Commission has been given the task to identify the indicators to measure the goals and targets. The statistical community is expected to provide baseline information as soon as possible and start reporting on SDGs as of 2016.

The main focus of the seminar will be on the role of the national statistical offices in the global SDG monitoring mechanism. The seminar will provide an opportunity to discuss the role of official statistics in this process and how statistical offices can prepare themselves to meet the high expectations to deliver data for monitoring SDGs.

(a) Topic 1: Monitoring SDGs at national level

The session, organised by France, will discuss the role of national statistical offices pertaining to the monitoring of SDGs. National statistical offices need to play a central role in producing data and reporting on sustainable development. Further, by using the *CES Recommendations for Measuring Sustainable Development*, national statistical offices can ensure consistency in the monitoring at national level, but also significantly influence comparability at regional and international levels.

Official statistical community has been consulted in the process of defining goals and targets to improve their measurability. However, the SDG reporting will present a huge challenge for all statistical offices as providers of data but also as the coordinator of different statistical producers to ensure the quality of data.

(b) Topic 2: Cooperation in monitoring SDGs at regional and global level

The session, organised by Sweden, will discuss the role of international statistical organizations in coordinating a global monitoring and review mechanism.

The political community calls for an integrated indicator system with timely data, including on many topics that are not part of official statistics. The statistical community has experience that will be needed for creating such an indicator system in cooperation with other data providers. The role of international organizations is important both as facilitators of collaboration among statisticians and enablers of efficient data collection.

4. Modernisation of statistical production and services and managing for efficiency

This part of the CES plenary session will be organised as a one-day seminar. The organisers are Ireland, Italy, Finland, Hungary, Croatia and Slovenia. The seminar will be co-chaired by Ireland and Italy. The progress of work under the UNECE High-level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services will also be considered during the seminar.

National statistical offices need to realise efficiencies as they are faced by budget constraints. At the same time statisticians need to respond flexibly to increasing demands and enhance data quality. The seminar will focus on progress achieved in modernizing statistical production and share latest innovations in developing data-based products and services.

The seminar will provide a structured discussion of strategies of national statistical offices for modernization and managing efficiencies. It will focus on strategic issues and priority areas of infrastructure development, as envisaged by the UNECE High-level Group.

(a) Topic 1: Statistical process modernization

The session, organised by Finland and Hungary, will discuss conceptual models and practical implementation examples of modernization of statistical production. It will focus on standardization of statistical processes and industrialization of statistical production phases to enhance product quality and cost efficiency.

The session will consider what kind of governance mechanism would best support modernization, how to successfully manage change and drive the process, and which technologies and skills are important for enabling modernization. The session will also consider what national statistical offices could learn from the private sector.

(b) Topic 2: Product and service innovation

The session, organised by Croatia and Slovenia, will focus on product and service innovation to respond to new demands. The session shares examples of innovative data-based services and initiatives to increase the value of official statistics.

The session will consider how to develop statistical products to respond to new demands, including new information needs for policy decisions. The session will provide an opportunity to share views on ways to increase access to, usability and re-use of data to strengthen the value and quality of statistics. It will also consider the key constraints which currently hinder this development. The session shares examples of how strategic partnerships can help to develop new tools for data-analytics.

5. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference

Four documents will be submitted to the CES 2015 plenary session for consideration.

(a) Guide to Measuring Global Production

The Guide was developed by the Task Force on Global Production, established in November 2011. The aim of the work was to support the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA) and the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6) with respect to global production arrangements. The Task Force followed up on the work of the Expert Group on the Impact of Globalization on National Accounts and the research agenda identified in the *Guide on Impact of Globalization on National Accounts*, endorsed by CES in June 2011.

The CES Bureau reviewed the Guide to Measuring Global Production at its February 2015 meeting, and asked the secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members which was carried out in spring 2015. The Conference was also informed of the progress of work and the draft Guide in April 2014. An electronic consultation of the draft Guide was carried out with the CES members prior to the 2014 CES plenary session. All respondents considered the Guide as a useful and comprehensive source of clear and coherent recommendations, and some countries provided additional country case studies. Subject to the positive outcome of the final consultation with CES in spring 2015, the Guide will be submitted to the Conference in June 2015 for endorsement.

(b) International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers

The Guidelines were prepared by the Task Force on International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers, established by the CES Bureau in November 2011. The purpose of the Task Force was to produce a set of international guidelines to help countries in developing and maintaining statistical business registers and to compile recommendations of good practices with business registers. Draft chapters of the Guidelines were discussed by the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Expert Group on business registers and the Wiesbaden Group who gave valuable input for finalising the Guidelines.

The CES Bureau reviewed the Guidelines at its February 2015 meeting, and asked the secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members in spring 2015. Subject to the positive outcome of the consultation, the Guidelines will be submitted to the Conference in June 2015 for endorsement.

(c) Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses

The Recommendations were prepared under the guidance of the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses, established by the CES Bureau in November 2012. The

purpose was to review the experience with the 2010 round of censuses in the CES member countries and develop new CES Recommendations for the 2020 round of censuses. Nine Task Forces were created to prepare the Recommendations. The Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses discussed the Recommendations in September 2014 and gave valuable input for finalising them.

The CES Bureau reviewed the Recommendations at its February 2015 meeting and asked the secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members in spring 2015. Subject to the positive outcome of the consultation, the Recommendations will be submitted to the Conference in June 2015 for endorsement.

(d) Statistical Framework for Measuring Quality of Employment

The document was prepared by the Expert Group on Measuring Quality of Employment, established by the CES Bureau in February 2012. The purpose of the Expert Group was to review and revise the conceptual structure of measuring quality of employment as outlined in the *Report on Potential Indicators for Measurement of Quality of Employment* (approved by CES in 2010), revise the set of indicators on quality of employment and develop operational definitions and computation guidelines. In October 2013, the Bureau reviewed the progress of work and supported the initial findings of the Expert Group. The Expert Group Meeting on Measuring Quality of Employment discussed the draft statistical framework in September 2013 and gave valuable input for finalising it.

In October 2014, the CES Bureau reviewed the *Statistical Framework on Measuring Quality of Employment* and asked the secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members. The consultation was carried out in November-December 2014. Thirty seven countries and organizations responded. The report will be updated before the CES plenary session to take into account the comments received. The secretariat will provide a summary of the feedback from the electronic consultation. Subject to the positive outcome of the consultation, the document will be submitted to the Conference in June 2015 for endorsement.

6. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

This agenda item concerns the decisions that the Conference is expected to take regarding the coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region.

The Conference will be informed about the outcomes of in-depth reviews of selected statistical areas carried out by the CES Bureau. These reviews are important tools of coordination to identify gaps or duplication of work and address emerging issues. The reviews focus on strategic issues and highlight concerns of statistical offices of both a conceptual and a coordinating nature.

(a) Outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the Conference of European Statisticians Bureau

The Conference will consider short reports on the outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the CES Bureau since the previous CES plenary session in April 2014. The CES Bureau reviewed 'Demographic projections' and 'Measuring extreme events and disasters' in October 2014 and 'Process-oriented approach to statistical production' in February 2015. The Conference will be invited to endorse the outcomes of these in-depth reviews.

(b) Substantive discussion on labour mobility and globalisation

The CES Bureau reviewed labour mobility and globalisation in-depth in February 2015. In view of the many issues and challenges in this area, the Bureau decided that this topic

should be discussed at the CES plenary session. The aim is to seek input from all CES members in discussing further work in this area.

7. Programme of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistics subprogramme

(a) Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

The Conference will be informed of the reports related to the UNECE statistical work programme as follows:

(i) Report on the implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2014 (ECE/CES/2015/14);

(ii) Reports of the CES Bureau Meetings, progress reports of Teams of Specialists (Steering Groups and Task Forces) and reports of expert meetings.

(b) Programme planning documents for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistics subprogramme

The Conference will be invited to review and adopt the official planning documents of the Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations secretariat's biennial planning and reporting cycle:

(i) UNECE Statistical Programme for 2015, first adopted by the CES Bureau at their October 2014 meeting. The document is in line with the Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2014-2015, adopted by the Conference in June 2013 (ECE/CES/2015/15) and approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in June 2014;

(ii) Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2016-2017 and the annexed Publication Programme, first adopted by the CES Bureau at their February 2015 meeting (ECE/CES/2015/16).

8. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2016 Conference of European Statisticians plenary session

The Conference will select topics for the CES seminars in 2016 based on a proposal by the CES Bureau. The proposal will reflect the results of an electronic survey to be carried out by the Secretariat in spring 2015 among the CES member countries and international organizations.

9. Election of the Conference of European Statisticians Bureau

The current term of all members of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians expires at the closing of the 2015 plenary session, on 17 June. At the 2015 plenary session, therefore, elections for Chair and Vice-Chairs will be held for the two-year period from June 2015 to June 2017.

10. Other business

Any additional issues that the Conference needs to be informed of can be taken up under this agenda item.

11. Closing of the meeting

A draft report of the CES plenary session, including the main decisions, will be adopted at the end of the meeting (in English only). A detailed report will be prepared after the Conference and will be sent for comments to all participants. The finalised report will be translated into French and Russian.

III. Organization of work

A detailed timetable will be made available on the official website of the Conference (www.unece.org/stats/documents/2015.06.ces.html) before the plenary session.

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Monday, 15 June	
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